

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-8 and 23 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Particularly, the Examiner asserts that the limitation reciting “wherein the outer surface does not include any of polishing marks, grinding marks, and chamfering marks,” is not supported by the Specification. Independent claim 1 has been amended to remove the language reciting that the outer surface does not include any grinding marks. However, support for the limitation reciting that the outer surface does not include any of polishing marks and chamfering marks may be found in paragraph [0021] of the Publication of the present application. Specifically, paragraph [0021] recites that “In the case of a polished surface, fine marks made by polishing are left. *On the other hand*, the molding-free face has a smooth surface.” *Emphasis added*. Clearly, by describing the outer surface (*i.e.*, the molding-free face) as “smooth” the Specification implies that the surface is free from polishing marks, as evidenced by the phrase “on the other hand.”

Further, paragraph [0011] states that the molding-free face “makes it possible to suppress the generation of dust from the glass itself and eliminate the need for chamfering.” Clearly,

“free from the need for chamfering” supports the limitation reciting that the outer surface does not include chamfering marks, because chamfering marks are only present when chamfering is performed. Here, as there is no need to perform chamfering on the outer surface, the outer surface would not include any chamfering marks. Thus, it is clear that the phrase “smooth,” as used to describe the molding-free face, is defined in the specification as being free from polishing marks and chamfering marks (*see* Specification, paragraphs [0011] and [0021]).

In view of the above, it is clear that amended independent claim 1 is supported by the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,537,648 issued to Takahashi *et al.* (hereinafter “Takahashi”). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. *See* MPEP § 2131. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Takahashi does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1.

Specifically, Takahashi fails to disclose the limitation “wherein the outer surface does not include any of polishing marks and chamfering marks. The Examiner equates the disclosure reciting “the end face mirror is finished” in Takahashi with the outer surface of the claimed invention (*see* Office Action mailed January 16, 2007, page 4). However, the process of mirror finishing as taught by Takahashi includes a *polishing* step, and thus, there would necessarily be marks left by polishing on the end face mirror of Takahashi (*see* Takahashi, col. 15, lines 3-9).

In view of the above, it is clear that Takahashi fails to disclose each and every limitation of the claimed invention. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Takahashi. Dependent claims 2-5 and 8 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 7, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Takahashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,660,061 issued to Donley *et al.* (hereinafter “Donley”). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Takahashi fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of independent claim 1. Further, Donley fails to supply that which Takahashi lacks, as evidenced by the fact that Donley is relied upon solely for the purpose of rendering obvious limitations relating to grinding and polishing a surface, fire polishing a surface, and an inner surface that comprises a rounded edge without corners (*see* Office Action of January 16, 2007, pages 5-6).

In view of the above, it is clear that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Takahashi and Donley, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claims 6, 7, and 23 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 23, the Examiner asserts that Donley inherently teaches an inner surface comprising a rounded edge without corners by teaching that “fire polished glass surface is stronger than a ground and polished surface of plate glass and in addition the article is less subject to breakage on continuous exposure to hot sunlight than an article of similar appearance formed of a homogenous colored glass.” *See* Office Action mailed

January 16, 2007, page 6. However, to support a rejection based on inherency, “the examiner must provide a basis in fact and/or technical reasoning to reasonably support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristic necessarily flows from the teachings of the applied prior art.” MPEP § 2112 (citing *Ex parte Levy*, 17 USPQ2d 1461, 1464 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990) (emphasis in original). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not provided any such fact or reasoning, and therefore has not satisfied the requirements for a rejection based on inherency.

In particular, Applicant respectfully points out that whether a glass surface is stronger than another surface and subject to less breakage in the sun has absolutely nothing to do with whether the surface includes a rounded edge without corners. By equating a strong and durable glass surface with an inner surface comprising rounded edges and no corners, the Examiner has obviously mischaracterized the claimed limitation or read the limitation in question overly broad, both of which are wholly improper. *See Phillips v. AWH Corp.* Thus, it is clear that Donley fails to teach or suggest, either explicitly or inherently, the limitations of dependent claim 23.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

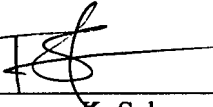
Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04558/053001).

Application No.: 09/911,855

Docket No.: 04558/053001

Dated: July 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas K. Scherer
Registration No.: 45,079
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

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